

Press-Herald

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Regents Have a Complex

Californians can't have it both ways! For months there have been demands that strict economies be adopted, that we stop deficit financing, and that we try to bring a balanced budget into being.

Governor Ronald Reagan in his campaign promised to do these things.

But some of the people who supported him the most vigorously, certain members of the Board of Regents and University officials, are now crying to high heaven that the proposed reductions in the expenses are scandalous!

These very people by their background, intelligence, and position should be the first to know that if we are to reduce the serious financial plight facing the state of California that cuts must be made on even their own pet projects.

Apparently some of these individuals say, "Gore all the other oxen in the field but leave mine alone." It just doesn't make sense!

There are strong indications that the Board of Regents has taken on a complex — that it is a law unto itself, and knows what is best in all matters pertaining to education!

This is wrong, and it is not true!

Year after year, the University of California and its branches have asked and received millions of additional dollars with which to operate.

Year after year, the hard-pressed and overburdened taxpayer picks up the check!

In most of our counties, when a home owner or a property owner receives his or her tax bill it is stated that 50 per cent or more goes for public education.

Now people are receiving their state income tax form—540-A to be specific. It states that of the general budget, education takes 57 per cent, or more than half, while health and welfare account for 28 per cent!

Thus education, health, and welfare in the state budget totals more than 4/5 of the total budget which has increased steadily during the last eight years of Governor Pat Brown's administration to the point where it is pushing \$5 billion.

This sum is greater than the national financial programs of more than 100 nations of the world.

If reductions are to be made in the state's budget — and they must be — certainly education and health and welfare will have to make their contributions.

There is precious little left on which to cut if these two items are given a most favored nation's position and exempt.

University officials and the Board of Regents ask that the state supply \$270 million to provide education for 87,000 students enrolled on the various campuses of the University of California.

This works out to more than \$3,000 per student per year to say nothing of the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in University real estate and physical plants.

There is a strong growing feeling on the part of many taxpayers that we are not getting our money's worth from funds invested in education.

This feeling is heightened when we see the University of California at Berkeley, and some of the other campuses, too, serving as a springboard for radical movements and anti-American demonstrations — where strikes and protest scenes have become commonplace.

In his Inaugural Address, Governor Ronald Reagan pledged himself to "squeeze and cut and trim until we reduce the cost of government."

This was a bold and courageous statement! It was long overdue!

We trust the Governor will have the intestinal fortitude to stand by his guns, and that a great majority of Californians will support him.

The Governor is attempting to streamline services, install real economy, and provide work instead of welfare handouts!

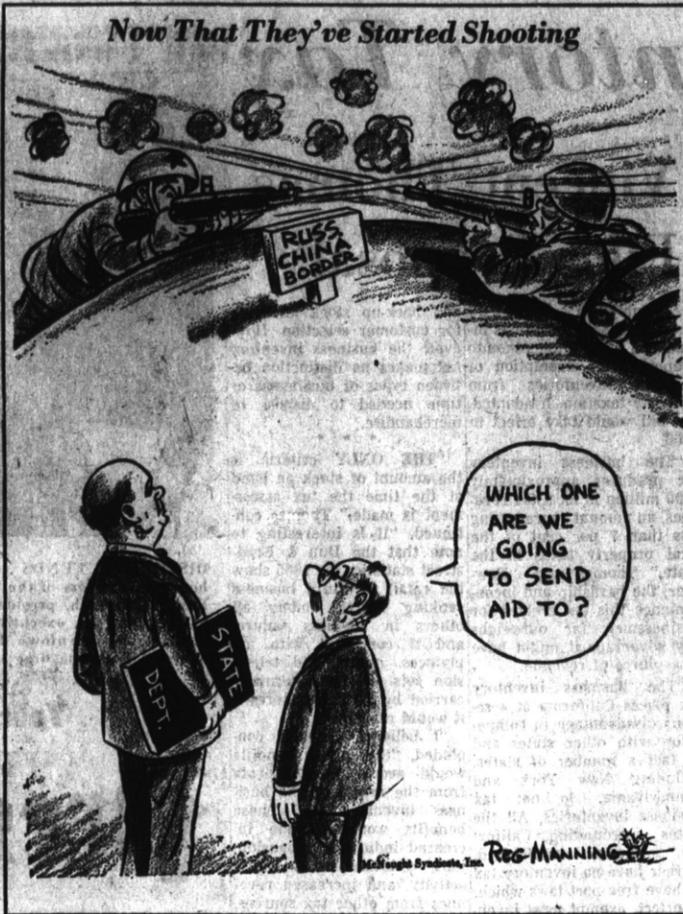
If he succeeds, he should have the gratitude of every taxpayer.

There is no question that there is waste, inefficiency, and duplication in our educational system, as well as other functions of state government.

Certainly it is possible to eliminate some of these expenses, and particularly if clear thinking citizens will back the Governor in his efforts to put the California fiscal house back in order.—By Virgil Pinkley, Editor and Publisher, Indio (Calif.) Daily News

How long will it be before we have a computer for president of the United States? These Rube Goldberg contraptions seem to have all the answers before the questions are asked. It should be quite an election the day computers run for office. The contest would be a three-way race between Univac, IBM, and Control Data. The election would be settled in a hurry by a half a dozen voters in Henniker, N.H. No one else need go to the polls for the machines would grind out the outcome on the basis of those six votes. Computers provide valuable service in many fields but they do take the joy out of election parties that used to be an American tradition.—Kenyon (Minn.) Leader.

Violence seems to be a popular way of gaining attention. A young man in Mesa, Ariz., killed five people just to gain attention. People with mental quirks such as this perhaps cannot be prevented from committing their first crime but they can be put away so they cannot cause any more trouble. This business of paroling and turning loose people who have dangerous tendencies should stop.—Elk Point (S.D.) Leader-Courier.



AFFAIRS OF STATE

Term Appointments Put New Governor on a Spot

By HENRY C. McARTHUR SACRAMENTO (CNS) — The people of California are now witnessing one of the strongest arguments that ever has been evident as to why the system of term appointments in state government should be abolished.

Most of the trouble, experienced by the state's new governor, Ronald Reagan, in attempting to effect economies as mandated by vote of the people, has stemmed from the hold-overs in the previous administration, who generally are not only of a different political party with different philosophies of government, but also have been in state office long enough to feel some loyalty to the entrenched bureaucracy.

The concept of term appointments originated a good many years ago, during the days of cross-filling, and at that time the Republicans were electing one governor after another without a break in party superiority. It was also a time when the general philosophies of government meshed more between parties than they do today.

The practice, therefore, was originated to protect people in jobs, rather than continue basic philosophies. The result over the years, as shown today, is that everyone, including the people of the state, and the two major political parties, are hampered by the long string of term appointments required in the California codes.

While the term appointment continues to protect job-holders, it works practically to thwart the will of the people as expressed at the polls. Last November, the people mandated the Republican party to curtail government spending.

In attempting to carry out this mandate, the administration has run into a buzz saw of mis-information to

the public, scare-head stories on what the evils of cutting down expenses will be, and generally, a wave of vituperation which no administration should be required to battle.

For the most part, this has come from government agencies protected by the armor of term appointments.

The board of regents of the University of California are appointed for 16-year terms. The Board of Trustees of the California State Colleges have eight-year term appointments. It is small wonder, then, that these and other state boards and commissions, can afford to carry on the traditions and philosophies of a past administration, because the

new administration can't replace them until the terms have been completed.

The argument on behalf of term appointments was to the effect that "continuity" in the operation of a government function was highly important in carrying out that function.

The fact now stands out that the voters could be less interested in the so-called continuity, when it merely assures a political appointee of a lame-duck drain on the state for a few years.

Although this situation is graphically pointed up at the present time, it could occur no matter what political party prevailed at the election. Democrats would face the same hampering restrictions if they came into office on the heels of a Republican administration.

It follows, then, that the people themselves are the real losers, for no matter what political party they put in office, the aims and promises of that party can't be carried out satisfactorily with members of the other party in a position to take pot-shots at the winners.

Quote

A viable society in which business can prosper and grow, the kind of society all of us want, demands the intelligent exercise of public responsibility by the business community itself. We can not settle for just living up to the letter of the law. —John D. Harper, president of Aluminum Company of America.

Bearded pickets burn their draft cards but would never hesitate to accept unemployment checks or social security benefits. —Richard G. Capen Jr., newspaper executive in San Francisco speech.

My reason for living is not that I'm brave, but that I like to be alive. — Actor Michael Dunn, dwarfed by childhood disease.

Political revolutions never occur instantaneously. The seeds are invariably present in the preceding epoch. — Leland Smith, Stanford.

Morning Report:

As all of us know, we Americans are industrious, patriotic and honest. But now that a Big Electronic Eye is going over our income tax returns, we are even more honest than ever.

Already, the Internal Revenue people report that we have voluntarily come across with six million in taxes we somehow just forgot to pay. Of course, a lot of people still do not believe in these marvels of the computer age. They are learning fast — and expensively. The Eye found out we were short better than \$3,000,000,000 we should have forked over.

Time was when an income tax return was a private affair between a taxpayer's conscience and an auditor. This old right of felonious privacy is now gone.

Abe Mellinkoff

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Missing Halo One Reason Peter Hurd Oil Rejected

Cornetti: We know why LBJ is sore about Peter Hurd's portrait. No halo . . . Apropos whom, Dr. Phillip Shapiro, psychiatrist at Mt. Zion, was asked recently by Newsman J. Campbell Bruce: "How would you like to have LBJ on the couch?" Dr. Shapiro: "My time is all taken up." The other morn. he phoned Bruce to report a mid chuckles: "Funny thing just happened — my first patient today offered to donate his time to LBJ. . . . Our mythical award for Poise Under Pressure goes to Jim Murphy, the socialite stockbroker. A few wks. ago, Pvt. Eye Hal Lipset of San Francisco was indicted in N. Y. on a charge of bugging a room in the Plaza Hotel there (it was Murphy's room and Lipset was working for his wife). In Jack's restaurant the other day the two men met for the first time — and Murphy smiled smoothly: "It's a pleasure to meet you without a door between us!"

Howard Gossage, one of the saner philosophers of our time, suggested recently that there is only one thing left that truly outrages an American: finding somebody else's car blocking his driveway. He envisions a scene wherein a man comes home unexpectedly, finds his wife in bed with another

man, and shouts angrily at the guy: "Hey, is that your car in my driveway?"

Add San Francisco: Lord knows I sympathize with our city bus drivers. What a miserable job in every way. But on the other hand, I get annoyed at those few who drive their buses like hot rods, and seem to delight in stopping so suddenly

San Francisco

that standees are all but thrown to the floor . . . I was on such a bus the other day — buffeted from pillar to post — and as we got off, the guy I was with said to the driver: "Look, I know you hate US, but there are some of your people on this bus, too." The driver drummed his fingers on the wheel and then smiled nastily: "Man, that's the only reason I even slow down at the red lights!"

However: Things are different in the wonderful world of the cable cars. Gripman Lafayette Lockhart and Conductor Al Kelsey, who operated Run 78 on the California Street cable line for a long time, were recently transferred elsewhere. During their last run, they handed out neatly typed statements to all their passengers, as follows: "It has been a privilege to be

among you as gripman and conductor. Starting Jan. 3, you will have a different crew on this run. We know that you will extend to them the same courtesy and warmth we have received from you."

Scene: It was a foggy dawn over at Port Chicago, where they load the ammo and napalm for Viet Nam, and Prof. George Price of San Francisco State College was walking his lonely vigil, picket sign aloft. Suddenly, from out of the swirling mist, strode a tall, lanky man, wearing a Stetson cowboy hat, a roll-your-own cigarette stitched to his lower lip.

"Howdy," said the stranger. "I'm from Missouri. I understand you folks are standing off the Federals." "In a way," accented the Professor, "We are protesting an illegal involvement in a foreign war." "Well, good for you," nodded the stranger. "My name is Younger. I'm with you, and my granddaddy would be with you, too. Cole Younger was his name, and he rode with the Dalton's."

Tipping his Stetson, he stroled off, turning around — just before disappearing into the fog — to call back: "Remember, y'all got to watch the Federals all the time."

ROYCE BRIER

Stealing an Old Master Must Be Special Thrill

Probably the Old Masters in oil achieved the greatest art form in several millenniums. Only Greek sculpture compares with it, and modern Western Man has been unable fully to identify with it.

But hundreds of millions have identified with Old Masters for 600 years, and many are a little unhooked by the glow of a Raphael sky, the violence of Michelangelo's struggling men, the reach for infinity in the brown Rembrandt portrait background.

Most of the great works have been in museums, or are murals in sanctuaries. There the millions view them by the hour, and try to find their meaning ever after.

The viewers, who are a little unhooked, or spell-bound, include a small segment which is really unhooked. These people want

to steal movable pictures for reasons unknown to most of us. A psychologist may advance a reason for thefts of Masters, and lesser painters as well, but an art thief's individual motive

cannot be unraveled, even if he remorsefully reveals one.

An odd aspect of the theft of Old Masters is that such a theft cannot be for gain. The paintings can't be turned into money, though occasionally one may be held for ransom, or there is some other skulduggery involved when and if they are recovered.

And most are recovered, usually with scant or no damage to the canvas.

Just recently somebody cut a hole in a side door of Dulwich College art gallery, near London, and made

away with three Rembrandts and three Rubens. As the hole was narrow, the London papers screamed headlines of a "Thin Man" thief.

Almost immediately, underworld tipsters phoned Scotland Yard, and in a day or so some of the paintings were found under a bush near the gallery, others in a slum flat in the London Soho district.

Does this theft and indifferent concealment make sense? It isn't supposed to. It's only supposed to testify to the compulsion which an Old Master can work on a wandering criminal mind.

There have been hundreds of such crimes since the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre many years ago, though lesser artists are naturally in the majority. Most of the works were recovered, and few got into the underground market, though this is a favorite film plot.

The culprits are often arrested, though they are never of the suave Vincent Price type. In the Dulwich case, they held a man who says he merely "delivered" the paintings to the Soho flat.

All this suggests many museum curators, to say the least, are lax in their security. True, you can't peddle a Rembrandt, any more than you can turn a \$10,000 bill into twenties at a bank. But it's such fun! So most art thefts have an air of naive about them, both as to the thieves and their victims.

Incidentally, Scotland Yard is looking for a "tall brunette" in the \$8.4 million Dulwich crime. Blondes and redheads are found in less esoteric malefactions.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Spring Book Lists Have That Old Familiar Look

Short takes: At this time of year we pursue publishers' Spring catalogues with anticipation, respect and, occasionally, with a forlorn feeling that we have been through all this many times before.

For instance, among the bright spots in the Spring, 1967, list of Trident Press: "Billy Graham and Seven Who Were Saved," in which Lewis W. Gillenson presents "the inspiring stories of seven people and how Billy Graham and his Bible-based faith have dramatically changed their lives." "Keep the Faith, Baby" will contain the "most provocative and meaningful sermons" of Rev. Adam C. Powell, the controversial Harlem congressman. "The Doctor's Wife's Thinking Thin Cookbook" is a collection of "calorie conscious recipes and diet ideas that really work," assembled by Eleanor Ruben, wife of Theodore I. Ruben, M.D., author of last year's success from Trident Press, "The Formerly Fat Psychiatrist." "The Celebrity Cookbook" contains the favorite recipes of Sandy Koufax, Mrs. Lyndon

B. Johnson, Rosemary De Camp and others, collected with an introduction by Dinah Shore.

I am in the midst of what must be the month's most shattering book, a truly rough, stomach-turning, yet

Books

fascinating work of pop sociology, "The Hell's Angels," in which Hunter S. Thompson presents an inside view and history of the notorious motorcycle organization. (For his efforts, he explains in a postscript, he was badly stomped by four or five Angels some 50 miles north of Santa Rosa, Calif. on Labor Day of last year.) Random House will publish this "strange and terrible saga," as it is subtitled, on January 27.

I trust that the legal problems have been ironed out, for there are some wild reports on just about everything from mass LSD parties to mass rape, and much naming of names in this ugly American document. The Novelist Ken Kesey has a prominent role in it, and so do Kesey's legendary par-

ties at his former La Honda headquarters. A quote:

"People who regularly attend Kesey's parties were not so worried as those who'd only heard about them. The enclave was public only in the sense that anyone who felt like it could walk through the gate on the bridge. But once inside, a man who didn't speak the language was made to feel very self-conscious. Acid freaks are not given to voluble hospitality; they stare fixedly at strangers, or look right through them. Many guests were made fearful and never came back. Those who stayed were mainly the bohemian refugee element, whose sense of interdependence led them to spare each other the focus of their personal hostilities. For that there was always the cops, across the creek, who might come crashing in at any moment. . . ."

Norton has announced April publication of "Frame-Up: The Incredible Case of Tom Mooney and Warren Billings" by the San Francisco writer Curt Gentry.

My Neighbors



"Our guest room—"